Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary
445 12th. Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of Parts 2 and 97 of	**)**	
the Commission's Rules Regarding	**)**	**RM-10209**
an Allocation of a Band near 5MHz	**)**	
for the Amateur Radio Service	**)**	

COMMENTS OF WILLIAM L. D'AGOSTINO, WB1DMK

SUPPORT OF THE PETITION FOR PROPOSED RULE MAKING RM-10209 CONCERNING THE PROPOSED AMATEUR RADIO 60-METER BAND. I am strongly in favor and fully support the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) petition RM-10209 which requests the Commission to allocate a new domestic 60-meter high-frequency band for US Amateurs in the vicinity of 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis.

I completely agree that there is a significant "propagation gap" between the 80-meter and 40-meter Amateur Radio Bands where the 80-meter band is too low in frequency and the 40-meter band is too high in frequency for reliable ionospheric propagation. This propagation gap can significantly hinder domestic emergency communication during a hurricane or other major natural disaster emergency.

As the Net Control Station for the Amateur Radio K1ARC American Red Cross Hurricane Watch Net for Southern New England, I am very familiar with "how" the propagation on the 80-meter band varies during the course of the year. This American Red Cross Hurricane Watch Net is on the air during communications emergencies and holds monthly training seasons on the 80-meter band to foster emergency communications preparedness serving Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts as well as acting as an emergency communications liaison link to the East Coast States along the Atlantic Ocean. I know that the 80-meter band can severely suffer from an extremely high noise floor due to atmospheric static crashes during the summer hurricane season, and this high noise floor is a major impediment to reliable emergency communications. Likewise, the 40-meter band can be ineffective due to unreliable ionospheric propagation for relaying emergency messages. Because of this significant "propagation gap" between the 80-meter and 40-meter bands, I strongly support and recommend that the Commission should authorize this new domestic 60-meter Amateur Radio Band on a secondary basis without delay.

The Amateur Radio Service has already successfully demonstrated that Amateur Radio can share this proposed new allocation on a secondary basis as the Amateur Radio Service is already successfully sharing the 30-meter band on a secondary basis without problems. If the new 60-meter band is approved, Amateur Radio Operators will avoid interfering with, and accept interference from, the current occupants of this radio spectrum which is currently allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

As a final comment, the ARRL's petition also cites the successful Amateur Radio experimental operation of WA2XSY in the 60-meter band which confirmed the communication reliability of the 60-meter band for domestic communications. I agree with the ARRL's conclusion that, "An amateur allocation in this band would improve the Amateur Service's already exemplary record of providing emergency communications during natural disasters when even modern communications systems typically fail."

I strongly support and highly recommend that the Commission should allocate this new domestic 60-meter Amateur Radio Band on a secondary basis without delay.

Sincerely,

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